

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BROWNSVILLE DIVISION**

STATE OF TEXAS, <i>et al.</i>)	
)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	No. 1:14-cv-254
v.)	
)	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, <i>et al.</i>)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

**JOINT MOTION TO STAY MERITS PROCEEDINGS PENDING
RESOLUTION OF SUPREME COURT REVIEW**

The parties hereby jointly move to stay proceedings on the merits of Plaintiffs’ claims, including the obligation to propose a schedule for resolution of the case, pending disposition of Defendants’ petition for certiorari and, if granted, final disposition of Supreme Court review. The basis for this motion is as follows:

1. On February 16, 2015, the Court issued an order preliminarily enjoining Defendants from “implementing any and all aspects or phases” of DAPA and modifications to DACA as set forth in the November 20, 2014 memorandum that is the subject of Plaintiffs’ challenge in this case. Order of Temporary Inj. (“Order”) at 1-2 [ECF No. 144]. In that same Order, the Court directed the parties to “meet and confer and formulate and file with the Court by February 27, 2015 an agreed upon (to the extent possible) schedule for the resolution of the merits of the case.

2. On February 23, 2015, Defendants appealed the preliminary injunction to the Fifth Circuit. [ECF No. 149]. Defendants also simultaneously filed a motion to stay the preliminary injunction pending resolution of that appeal [ECF No. 150], which this

Court ultimately denied. [ECF No. 225]. Defendants thereafter petitioned the Fifth Circuit for a stay of the preliminary injunction pending appeal.

3. On February 27, 2015, the parties jointly moved before this Court to extend their deadline to file a proposal for resolving the merits of this case until 14 days after Defendants' motion for a stay of the injunction was finally resolved through any appellate channels in which relief might be sought. [ECF No. 162]. The basis for seeking such a postponement was to allow the parties' consideration of the appropriate next steps in this case to be informed by the resolution of that stay request. The Court granted that motion. [ECF No. 164]. Thereafter, the Court separately stayed Defendants' obligation to respond to the complaint until further order of the Court. [ECF No. 200].

4. On May 26, 2015, a motions panel of the Fifth Circuit denied Defendants' application to stay the preliminary injunction pending resolution of Defendants' appeal.

5. On June 10, 2015, the parties jointly moved to further stay proceedings on the merits of Plaintiffs' claim pending final disposition of Defendants' appeal of the preliminary injunction, including through any additional appellate channels in which relief may be sought. [ECF No. 170]. On June 11, 2015, the Court granted a stay of all proceedings on the merits of Plaintiffs' claims, including the obligation to propose a schedule for resolving the case, pending final resolution of Defendants' appeal of the preliminary injunction in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. [ECF No. 170]. The Court also ordered the parties to jointly propose a schedule for resolving the merits of this case within 14 days after Defendants' appeal of the preliminary injunction has been finally resolved in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

6. On November 9, 2015, a divided panel of the Fifth Circuit affirmed this Court's issuance of the preliminary injunction, although the court of appeals has not yet issued its mandate. The Fifth Circuit addressed not only Plaintiffs' procedural Administrative Procedure Act (APA) challenge but also their substantive APA claim that the memorandum was contrary to law, concluding that no further factual development was necessary on that issue. Defendants have filed a petition for a writ of certiorari seeking Supreme Court review of the Fifth Circuit's decision. The Supreme Court's disposition of the Defendants' petition for a writ of certiorari and, if the petition is granted, the Supreme Court's decision are likely to affect the scope and nature of future litigation, and could obviate the need for further proceedings entirely.

7. On November 9, 2015, the Fifth Circuit also reversed this Court's decision denying intervention to three Jane Does who allege that they would be eligible to request DAPA if it is allowed to be implemented. The mandate for that decision has not yet issued.

8. This Court has the authority to issue a stay of proceedings: "[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes of its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants." *Landis v. N. Am. Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254-55 (1936). This Court and the parties will benefit from knowing the disposition of the petition for a writ of certiorari and any subsequent Supreme Court review, including on questions of this Court's jurisdiction and the merits of Plaintiffs' substantive and procedural APA claims, before engaging in further merits proceedings in this Court. *See, e.g. Tax Analysts & Advocates v. Internal Revenue Service*, 405 F. Supp. 1065, 1067 (D.D.C. 1975) (staying

the district court case when a petition for certiorari in a similar case was pending before the Supreme Court); *Coombs v. Diguglielmo*, 2004 WL 1631416 at *1-*2 (E.D. Pa. July 21, 2004) (stay granted in light of pending petition for certiorari in case that may have “significant impact” on case before the court); *Felix v. United States*, 1992 WL 361745 at *1 (N.D. Cal. April 29, 1992) (stay of proceedings granted to allow government opportunity to consider seeking Supreme Court review of court of appeals’ decision); *see also Carty v. Rodriguez*, 211 Fed. Appx. 292, 293 (5th Cir. 2006) (staying district court proceedings pending appeal of threshold qualified immunity question). In the meantime, the preliminary injunction would remain in effect during the stay. Additionally, a stay would avoid duplicative and potentially unnecessary litigation. *Cf. Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Assn. v. EPA*, 410 F.3d 964, 980 (7th Cir. 2005) (“[a] stay pending the outcome of litigation in another court between the same parties, involving the same or controlling issues is an acceptable means of avoiding unnecessary duplication of judicial machinery”) (citation and internal quotations omitted).

9. Although the mandate has not yet issued for the Fifth Circuit’s decision on the Jane Does’ appeal concerning intervention, counsel for Defendants nevertheless conferred with counsel for the Jane Does about their position on this joint motion. The Jane Does’ counsel represented that they do not oppose the motion.

10. For the foregoing reasons, the parties respectfully submit that further proceedings on the merits of this case, including discussions about, and entry of, a schedule for resolving the merits of the case, should be stayed pending the Supreme Court’s disposition of the Defendants’ petition for a writ of certiorari and, if the petition is granted, the Supreme Court’s disposition of the case. The parties further request that

the obligation to submit a proposal for further proceedings in this case be deferred until 21 days after final disposition of Supreme Court review. Because the parties are amenable to a stay of the merits proceedings, the balance of interests weighs heavily in favor of granting that stay.

Dated: November 23, 2015

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFERRAL

Undersigned counsel hereby certifies that counsel for Plaintiffs, Angela Colmenero, concurred in the filing of this Joint Motion to Stay Merits Proceedings Pending Resolution of Supreme Court Review.

/s/ Kyle R. Freeny

Counsel for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Undersigned counsel hereby certifies that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Joint Motion to Stay Merits Proceedings Pending Resolution of Supreme Court Review has been delivered electronically on November 23, 2015, to counsel of record via the District's ECF system.

/s/ Kyle R. Freeny

Counsel for Defendants